

Serial No. 10/659,476

706568US1

Remarks

Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18 and 19 remain pending in this application. By this paper, Applicant has canceled claims 7 and 17, and amended claims 1 and 15 to include the limitations of claims 7 and 17, respectively, and claims 1, 10, 15 and 18 have likewise been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Initially, Applicants express with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7-9 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, by this amendment, Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include the limitations of original claim 7, and claim 15 to include the original limitations of claim 17. Claim 20 has been cancelled. Therefore, since all remaining claims are dependent from claim 1 or claim 15, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. However, Applicants also note that while claims 1 and 15 have been rewritten to include the limitations of the allowable dependent claims 7 and 17, respectively, this is not to be construed as an acquiescence of the Examiner's position regarding the rejected claims. Applicants have rewritten the independent claims merely to expedite issuance of the allowed claims, and hereby preserve the right to again pursue the rejected claims in a continuation application.

Turning now to the remaining issues as set forth in the Office Action, with respect to the drawing objection under 37 CFR 1.83(a) (for failure to show a "passenger" as set forth in claims 1, 10, 15, 18, and 20), Applicants have deleted the reference to a "passenger" from the still pending claims. Therefore, this response obviates the objection to the drawings without need for correction of the drawings. Regarding the objection to claim 18 because of an informality (the Examiner noting that "a passenger" should be "the passenger" in line 5), Applicants deletion of the reference to a "passenger" has obviated this objection as well. Regarding the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention (for use of the term "optionally" in claims 1, 15, and 20), Applicants have replaced the term "optionally" with the term "selectively" in both claim 1 and 15. As such, Applicants content that the claims as amended are definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.


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From the foregoing, Applicants submit that the remaining claims in this patent application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims and passage of the application to issue are courteously requested. If a telephone conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference with the undersigned is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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